

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-15 (Canceled)

Claim 16 (Currently Amended) A method of setting an audio output level comprising:

storing a plurality of thresholds associated with clock time information preliminarily;
selecting one of the plurality of thresholds corresponding to a current clock time;
requesting an acknowledgement that a setting of the audio output level is to be changed,
if the setting of the audio output level is to be changed to a setting that exceeds the selected
threshold; ~~and~~

allocating a function of replying to the acknowledgement to an operation button provided
on at least one of a remote control unit and a main unit for a certain period of time immediately
after requesting the acknowledgment; and

deallocating the function of replying to the acknowledgement from the operation button
after the certain period of time expires, if a reply via the operation button is not received.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended) A method of setting an audio output level comprising:

storing a plurality of thresholds associated with audio output device information
preliminarily;

selecting one of the plurality of thresholds corresponding to a currently connected audio
output device;

requesting an acknowledgement that a setting of the audio output level is to be changed,
if the setting of the audio output level is to be changed to a setting that exceeds the selected
threshold; ~~and~~

allocating a function of replying to the acknowledgement to an operation button provided
on at least one of a remote control unit and a main unit for a certain period of time immediately
after requesting the acknowledgment; and

deallocating the function of replying to the acknowledgement from the operation button
after the certain period of time expires, if a reply via the operation button is not received.

Claim 18 (**Previously Presented**) The method of setting an audio output level as recited in claim 16,

wherein each of the plurality of thresholds includes at least one of an upper limit and a lower limit.

Claims 19 and 20 (**Canceled**)

Claim 21 (**Currently Amended**) A device for setting an audio output level, the device comprising:

a storage unit operable to store a plurality of thresholds associated with clock time information preliminarily;

a selecting unit operable to select one of the plurality of thresholds corresponding to a current clock time;

a requesting unit operable to request an acknowledgement that a setting of the audio output level is to be changed, if the setting of the audio output level is to be changed to a setting that exceeds the selected threshold; and

an allocating unit operable to allocate a function of replying to the acknowledgement to an operation button provided on at least one of a remote control unit and a main unit for a certain period of time immediately after requesting the acknowledgment, and deallocate the function of replying to the acknowledgement from the operation button after the certain period of time expires, if a reply via the operation button is not received.

Claim 22 (**Previously Presented**) The device for setting an audio output level as recited in claim 21, further comprising:

a changing unit operable to change the setting of the audio output level only if the acknowledgement is given that the setting is to be changed.

Claim 23 (**Currently Amended**) A device for setting an audio output level, the device comprising:

a storage unit operable to store a plurality of thresholds associated with audio output device information preliminarily;

a selecting unit operable to select one of the plurality of thresholds corresponding to a currently connected audio output device;

a requesting unit operable to request an acknowledgement that a setting of the audio output level is to be changed, if the setting of the audio output level is to be changed to a setting that exceeds the selected threshold; and

an allocating unit operable to allocate a function of replying to the acknowledgement to an operation button provided on at least one of a remote control unit and a main unit for a certain period of time immediately after requesting the acknowledgment, and deallocate the function of replying to the acknowledgement from the operation button after the certain period of time expires, if a reply via the operation button is not received.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented) The device for setting an audio output level as recited in claim 23, further comprising:

a changing unit operable to change the setting of the audio output level if the acknowledgement is given that the setting is to be changed.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented) The method of setting an audio output level as recited in claim 16, further comprising:

changing the setting of the audio output level only if the acknowledgement is given that the setting is to be changed.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented) The method of setting an audio output level as in recited claim 16, further comprising:

changing the setting of the audio output level only if an acknowledgement is given that the setting is to be changed within a given time after the requesting of the acknowledgement.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented) The method of setting an audio output level as recited in claim 17, further comprising:

changing the setting of the audio output level only if the acknowledgement is given that the setting is to be changed.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented) The method of setting an audio output level as recited in claim 17, further comprising:

changing the setting of the audio output level only if an acknowledgement is given that the setting is to be changed within a given time after the requesting of the acknowledgement.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented) The method of setting an audio output level as recited in claim 17,

wherein each of the plurality of thresholds includes at least one of an upper limit and a lower limit.

Claim 30 (New) The method of setting an audio output level as recited in claim 16, further comprising:

setting the audio output level to the setting that exceeds the selected threshold, if the reply via the operation button is received; and

setting the audio output level to the selected threshold, if the reply via the operation button is not received by expiration of the certain time period.

Claim 31 (New) The method of setting an audio output level as recited in claim 17, further comprising:

setting the audio output level to the setting that exceeds the selected threshold, if the reply via the operation button is received; and

setting the audio output level to the selected threshold, if the reply via the operation button is not received by expiration of the certain time period.

Claim 32 (New) The device for setting an audio output level as recited in claim 21, further comprising a setting unit operable to set the audio output level to the setting that exceeds the selected threshold, if the reply via the operation button is received, and set the audio output level to the selected threshold, if the reply via the operation button is not received by expiration of the certain time period.

Claim 33 (**New**) The device for setting an audio output level as recited in claim 23, further comprising a setting unit operable to set the audio output level to the setting that exceeds the selected threshold, if the reply via the operation button is received, and set the audio output level to the selected threshold, if the reply via the operation button is not received by expiration of the certain time period.